

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07277 01 OF 02 070117Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /135 W
----- 054028

Z O 071303Z MAY 74 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2311

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07277

FOR THE SECRETARY

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TOP-LEVEL CHANGES IN FRG GOVERNMENT

1. AFTER A DAY FILLED WITH RUMORS AND WIDE-RANGING SPECULATION, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BONN SEEMS TO BE TAKING A DRAMATIC TURN. BASED ON TALKS WE HAVE HAD WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES WHICH HAVE LASTED INTO THE LATE NIGHT AND ON VARIOUS SPECUTIVE NEWS MEDIA REPORTS, FOLLOWING IS THE PICTURE WE HAVE COME UP WITH. (WE WOULD STRESS THAT IT IS STILL SOMEWHAT CONJECTURAL AND THAT VARIOUS CHANGES IN WHAT WE ARE OUTLINING BELOW MAY OCCUR TOMODIFY THE PICTURE SOMEWHAT.)

2. AS A RESULT OF THE GUILLAUME SPY CASE, CHANCELLOR BRANDT HAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO RESIGN. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT HE WOULD CHOOSE TO RUN FOR THE FEDERAL SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 07277 01 OF 02 070117Z

PRESIDENCY BUT THIS IDEA HAS APPARENTLY BEEN DISCARDED.

BRANDT WILL REPORTEDLY SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION ON MAY 7.
HE IS SAID TO WISH TO REMAIN AS SPD PARTY CHAIRMAN.
HIS CHANCELLERY STATE SECRETARY GRABERT IS REPORTED NOW
EN ROUTE TO HAMBURG TO SEE PRESIDENT HEINEMANN TO SUBMIT
BRANDT'S RESIGNATION. (FYI: HEINEMANN IS IN HAMBURG
TO MAKE HIS FAREWELL CALLS AS PRESIDENT. END FYI.)

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, SCHEEL WILL NOW REMAIN
AS FDP PARTY CHAIRMAN AND AS FOREIGN MINISTER. IT IS
NOT NOW CLEAR WHO MAY BECOME PRESIDENT. IT IS NOT TO
BE EXCLUDED THAT HEINEMANN HIMSELF WILL DECIDE TO GO
FOR RE-ELECTION. HE INDICATED AS MUCH TO ONE OF OUR
CLOSE CONTACTS IN A RECENT DISCUSSION.

4. THE PRESENT SPECULATION IS THAT SCHEEL WILL BE
ASKED, AS VICE-CHANCELLOR, TO FILL THE OFFICE OF
CHANCELLOR UNTIL A NEW ONE CAN BE CHOSEN BY THE
BUNDESTAG. ALL SIGNS POINT TO THE SPD AND FDP
CONTINUING THEIR COALITION. IF THIS IS SO, THEN
HELMUT SCHMIDT IS VERY LIKELY TO BE THE NEXT CHANCELLOR.

5. THE PRINCIPAL VICTIM IN ALL OF THIS, APART FROM
BRANDT WHO WILL SHOULDER THE ENTIRE BLAME FOR THE
GUILLAUME AFFAIR, WILL BE INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER.
HE WILL REPORTEDLY BE FORCED TO RESIGN, PROBABLY ALONG
WITH THE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE CONSTITUTION, NOLLAU. WE ARE INFORMED THAT
BOTH MEN MISLED BRANDT IN MAY, 1973, WHEN THEY TOLD
HIM THAT GUILLAUME WAS UNDER SUSPICION BUT THAT BRANDT
SHOULD NONETHELESS ALLOW GUILLAUME TO ACCOMPANY BRANDT
TO NORWAY SO AS NOT TO MAKE GUILLAUME SUSPICIOUS. THIS
WAS DONE, BUT NONE OF THE SECURITY PEOPLE ACCOMPANYING

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07277 02 OF 02 070125Z

71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 056098

Z O 071303Z MAY 74 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2312

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07277

BRANDT WERE INFORMED OF GUILLAUME'S ACCESS TO SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS AND ALSO ALLOWED HIM TO CONTROL THE COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS BETWEEN NORWAY AND BONN (AND, PRESUMABLY, EAST BERLIN).

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EHMKE AND BAHR, THE TWO SPD FIGURES MOST UNDER ATTACK FROM THE OPPOSITION, WILL EMERGE UNSCATHED SINCE THEIR ROLES WILL APPEAR RELATIVELY CLEAR.

7. THE FDP LEADERSHIP IS MEETING NOW LATE INTO THE NIGHT AT SCHEEL'S HOME TO DISCUSS THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND THERE ARE REPORTS OF A LATE-NIGHT CABINET MEETING AS WELL. SCHEEL (AND NOT BRANDT) CALLED IN THE LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AT 2100 HOURS, MAY 6, TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH THEM, THOUGH THE LATTER SUBSEQUENTLY REFUSED TO DIVULGE THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS. CDU LEADER CARSTENS WOULD ONLY SAY THAT THE TALKS HAD ONLY A LOOSE CONNECTION WITH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 07277 02 OF 02 070125Z

THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR. THAT SCHEEL MET WITH THESE LEADERS IS IN ITSELF IMPORTANT: HE WAS SCHEDULED TO PRESIDE IN BRUSSELS ON MAY 7 AT AN EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING BUT IT WAS ANNOUNCED LATE TODAY THAT HE WOULD NOT BE MAKING THE TRIP.

8. COMMENT: WE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO EVALUATE THE VARIOUS CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS ONCE THE DECISIONS BECOME CLEAR AND THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED. ALL THAT CAN BE SAID AT THIS POINT IS THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE FRG HAS BEEN THROWN INTO TURMOIL BY BRANDT'S APPARENT DECISION. IT WOULD BE EASY TO PREDICT THAT IT WILL NOT REDOUND TO HIS OR THE SPD'S CREDIT BUT ONE CANNOT EXCLUDE THAT SCHMIDT, IF INDEED HE

BECOMES CHANCELLOR, WILL REINVIGORATE THE SPD IN
THE WAY THAT IT HAS NEEDED FOR SOME TIME. WE WILL BE
REPORTING AND ASSESSING THE SITUATION FURTHER ONCE IT
BECOMES CLEARER.
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN07277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740109-0875
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740569/aaaacjzk.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE TOP-LEVEL CHANGES IN FRG GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, GE, (BRANDT, WILLY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005